



State of California-Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

August 29, 2006

CHDP Provider Information Notice No.: 06-10

TO: ALL CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP)
PROGRAM PROVIDERS AND MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE PLANS

SUBJECT: SECOND VARICELLA VACCINE FOR CHILDREN TWELVE MONTHS
THROUGH TWELVE YEARS OF AGE

Varicella vaccine has been administered as one dose for children 12 months through 12 years of age, and as two doses, separated by an interval of at least four weeks, for individuals 13 years of age and older. However, on June 29, 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program passed a resolution recommending a 2-dose schedule for children 12 months through 12 years of age with a minimum interval of three months between doses. Please see the enclosed VFC Provider Letter for additional information.

The reason for the new recommendation is that in recent years varicella outbreaks have continued to occur among vaccinated school children. During these chickenpox outbreaks, between approximately 11 and 17 percent of vaccinated children develop varicella, which is usually mild, but the children are contagious and can transmit the virus to others including their parents who are at higher risk of severe disease. A second dose of varicella vaccine for children 12 months through 12 years of age will provide increased and longer lasting protection as compared to one dose.

ACIP/VFC recommended varicella vaccine schedule is for the first dose at 12 to 15 months of age, and the second dose at 4 to 6 years of age with a minimum interval of 3 months between doses. If the first dose of varicella vaccine is administered at or after age 13 years, then the minimal interval between doses continues to be 4 weeks.

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Effective June 29, 2006, CHDP will reimburse providers for the administration fee for 2 doses of varicella vaccine for children 12 months through 12 years of age. The administrative fee is already reimbursed for 2 doses of varicella vaccine for individuals at or over 13 years of age. Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella (MMRV) vaccine may be administered when a dose of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine and varicella vaccine is indicated. MMRV should not be administered for the second dose of MMR or varicella vaccine except when both are indicated or if no MMR or varicella vaccine is available at the time the dose is indicated.

Your continuing participation in the CHDP Program is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about this Provider Information Notice or other CHDP issues, please contact your local CHDP Program office.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H.

Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Chief
Children's Medical Services Branch

Enclosure